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**Cc:** [O'Rourke, Terence \(CAO\)](#); [Majors, Curtrina \(CAO\)](#); [Gordon, Leah \(CAO\)](#); [Gould, Sherri \(CAO\)](#)  
**Subject:** Information to Share with Community Awareness Committee  
**Date:** 07/22/2010 10:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Schedule.pdf](#)

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1) Some of you had requested a copy of the schedule of deliverables for the RI/FS for 2010-2012. I am attaching the document.

2) Terry O'Rourke requested sharing this article below with you all from the Baytown Sun on July 18th concerning the San Jacinto pits.

3) Reminder: The EPA community meeting will be held today at 6:30 pm at the Highlands/San Jacinto Community Center.

4) Reminder: The next community awareness meeting is on July 28 at 9:30. An agenda will be circulated on Monday. If you have suggestions for topics, please let me know.

Best wishes,  
Snehal

### **Residents hear presentation on superfund site**

[By Mark Fleming](#)

The Baytown Sun

Published July 18, 2010

As the Environmental Protection Agency moves forward on plans to contain the hazard presented to local residents by the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site, about 40 Highlands-area residents gathered Saturday to learn more about both the threat and the process for managing it.

The EPA will hold a more formal meeting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Highlands/San Jacinto Community Center.

The meeting Saturday was hosted by the Texans Together Education Fund, an organization that promotes civic engagement in a variety of community concerns. First Assistant Harris County Attorney Terence O'Rourke also spoke and took questions.

Texans Together had received a grant to canvass residents near the river about their awareness of the Superfund site. The group reported at the meeting that it had knocked on 1,424 doors in Baytown, Highlands and Channelview, and found 381 people who would respond to the survey. Of those, they said, only 26 percent were aware of the site.

The San Jacinto Waste Pits are an area, immediately north of the Interstate 10 San Jacinto River bridge on the west bank, that was used in the 1960s and 1970s to dump waste from the old Champion Paper Mill in Pasadena. That waste material contained highly toxic dioxin. The site, through subsidence, is now underwater, and the dioxin is seeping into the river.

In May, the two corporations held responsible for the site agreed to build a containment structure around the site as a temporary solution to contain the contaminants. International Paper is the successor company to Champion Paper, and Waste Management is the successor company to McGinnes Industrial Maintenance, which operated the disposal site.

O'Rourke said dioxin is "the worst chemical ever made by human beings in the history of the earth." It is implicated in a variety of cancers and can cause birth defects. It accumulates in the body when absorbed by contact or by eating contaminated food, and does not leave the body.

It is the presence of dioxin that has caused the Texas Department of Health to recommend limits on fish consumption from the Houston Ship Channel and upper Galveston Bay.

The temporary containment structure is to be built within a year of the May agreement signed by the two responsible companies and the EPA.

O'Rourke said his office has been acting as an advocate for a resolution with the EPA, which has exclusive jurisdiction.

He said the EPA meeting Tuesday will be a chance for people in the affected area to hear more about EPA plans and to give their input into the shape of those plans.

He said a permanent solution has not been determined, and will not be easy to find. Any solution is complicated by the fact the site is underwater in a river with variable water flow.

The Highlands/San Jacinto Community Center is located at 604 Highland Woods Drive in Highlands.

<http://baytownsun.com/story/51986>